

Michigan Underwater Salvage and Preserve Committee
Thursday, August 14, 2014
Michigan Historical Center
5th Floor, Board Room
Lansing, Michigan 48915
Meeting Minutes

Committee Members – Present

Terry Begnoche – Public Member/Whitefish Point
Sandra Clark – Department of natural Resources (DNR)/Michigan Historical Center
Tom Graf – Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
Peggy Kurpinski – Public Member/SCUBA Experience

Committee Members – Via Conference Call

Ron Bloomfield – Public Member/Michigan Underwater Preserve Council (MUPC)
Pete Lindquist - Public Member/Munising
Gail Vander Stoep – Member representing Travel Michigan/Michigan State University
Wayne Lusardi - DNR/Michigan Historical Center
Wade Hamilton – DNR/Law Enforcement Division (LED)

Staff

Michelle Davis – DNR/Michigan Historical Center

Guest

State Archaeologist Dean Anderson

Members of the Public

Daniel Friedhoff

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved without changes.

Approval of Minutes

On a motion by Bloomfield, seconded by Begnoche, the April 24, 2014, meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Comment

No public comments

Committee Reports

Law Enforcement

Wade Hamilton reported that a diver perished off the Straits of Mackinac near the *Cedarville*. The incident is being deemed as an accident.

Hamilton noted the recent discovery in Lake Huron of a World War II plane. Currently they are inquiring about ownership of the plane.

New Permit Applications

A new permit was received for the *Comet* safe from Whitefish Point. Once the permit application is complete, it will be submitted to the Committee for formal comments. If approved, the permit will be valid through the end of 2014. The permit applicants intend to apply for grants yet this year and plan to find collaborators for this project. Dr. Anderson noted the specific reference to a phase II archaeological survey. To complete an archaeological survey, a separate permit will be necessary. Bloomfield noted the permit application was very well put together.

Old Business

Prior to the meeting, Graf distributed information related to the centralized buoy application permit he received. Once completed, the application will go out for a public notice period for comments.

Permit approval will allow five years for the project to be completed. Two hundred and twenty two shipwreck sites were identified by information obtained from Preserves and a booklet listing the "diveable" wrecks. The project will need to be completed in various phases. It is likely the project will begin with the active shipwreck sites.

The Committee discussed the need for a process/procedure manual to implement the project. Distributing and monitoring the buoys according to guidelines is essential to the success of this project. Another possibility discussed was to establish contracts with each of the preserves to ensure accountability. The importance of coordinating the type/style of buoy needed and its proper placement were also topics discussed. It was noted that the Committee should try to avoid problems that occurred in the previous try of statewide marking and monitoring of buoys. As the implementation phase begins, more discussion will be needed on these topics.

New Business:

Prior to the meeting, Graf distributed a draft policy for processing permit applications to dispose of dredge material in the open waters of the Great Lakes. The final draft will be placed in the DEQ calendar for public review and comment on August 25, 2014. A federal permit is also needed to begin dredging. There also may be other permits needed once the review is completed. Dredge dumping is prohibited in the preserves. However, it is acceptable outside the preserves if it is at least 30 meters deep.

Member Updates

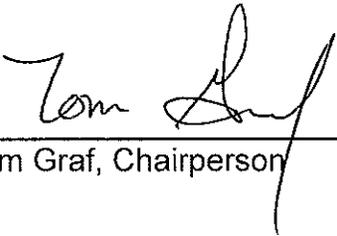
Lusardi reported the Thunder Bay boundary expansion final ruling should be known by the end of August 2014. If approved, a celebration event has been set for Saturday, September 6, 2014. There are four shipwrecks nominated for the National Registry which will be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Review Board in September.

Vander Stoep noted that receiving draft minutes shortly after a meeting and handouts one week prior to a meeting would be beneficial for Committee members.

Bloomfield and Lindquist both noted the cold water and busy schedules have not allowed them time for diving this season.

Friedhoff reported on the Straits of Mackinac's dive season. There were four local dive boats that were very busy and many visiting dive boats during the 2014 season. There were a lot of problems with buoys. Divers need to be trained on following instructions.

Kurpinski moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:13 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tom Graf", is written above a horizontal line.

Tom Graf, Chairperson